

4-23-2010

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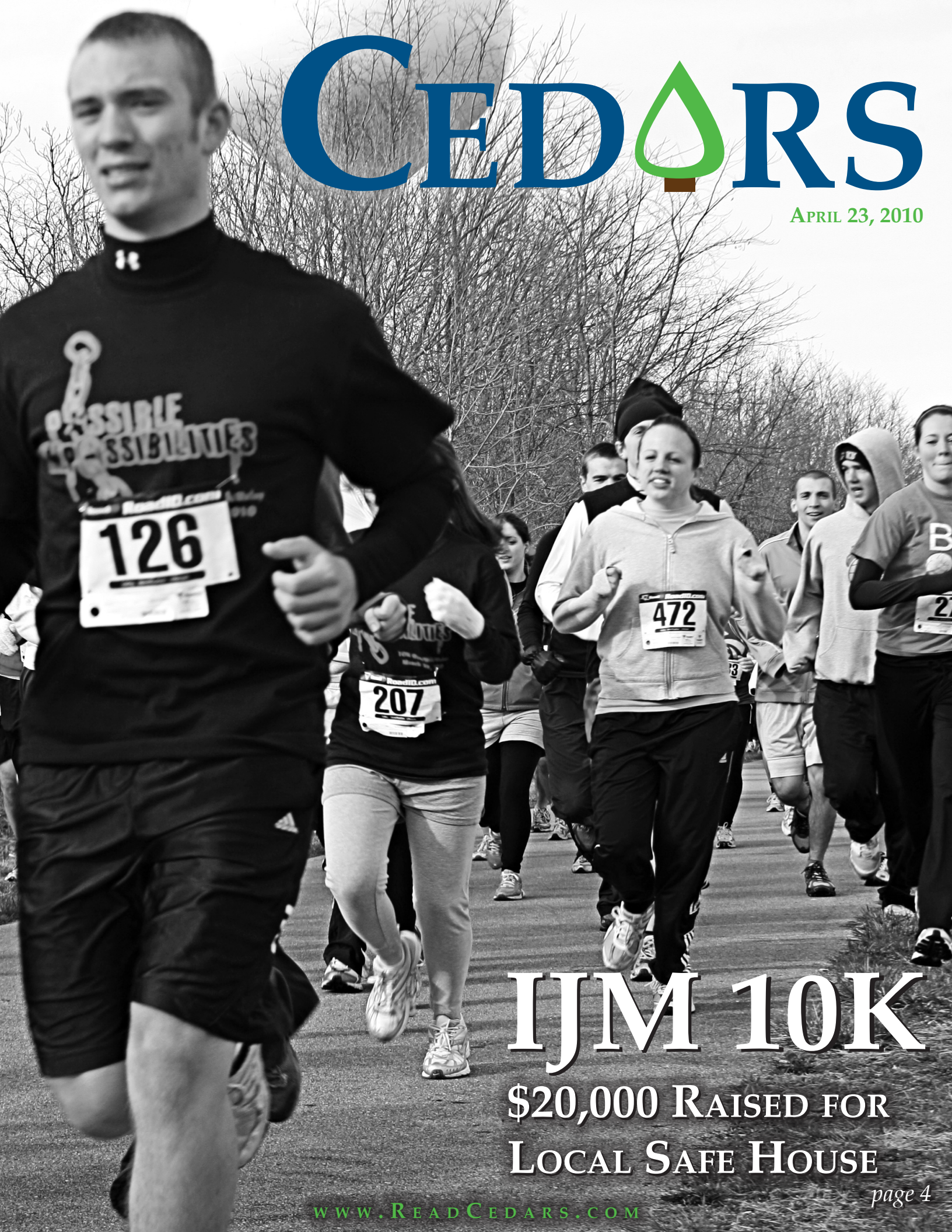
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CEDARS

APRIL 23, 2010



IJM 10K

\$20,000 RAISED FOR
LOCAL SAFE HOUSE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

April 23, 2010 Vol. 62, No. 3

Page 3

SGA looking for better system.

Page 4

Student runs barefoot for poverty stricken children.

Page 6

Review of "You Can't Take it With You."

Page 7

Book Review, "Emotional Purity: An Affair of the Heart."
Academic departments undergo a transformation.

Page 8

Carl Ruby takes risks.

Page 9

The gym renovations are under way.

Page 10

A student blogs from Jordan.

Page 12

Elliv: then and now.

Cover photo of IJM 10K runners by
Gerhard Mullican

CEDARS

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of Cedarville University

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CORNMAN ON MAJORS CHAPEL

Cedarville's Vice President for Academics, Dr. Thomas Cornman discusses the new concept of Majors Chapel that was implemented this semester.



"Colleges aren't taking time to put students in the right major given who they are," Cornman said. "People are wired different ways; it might mean a student's major coming out of high school might not be the right one for him."

Many students switch majors or feel unsure about the future because they don't understand all that their major involves, Cornman said. He hopes that Majors Chapel will clarify the details of each major so confused students will either know they should stay where they are or consider other career pursuits.

A BEAUTIFUL NIGHT FOR BASEBALL

The Yellow Jackets played at Fifth Third Field on a beautiful Wednesday night. The event, planned flawlessly by Cedarville's Sports Management class, drew over 700 fans for a evening of baseball. *For more on this story, go to ReadCedars.com.*

SGA WORSHIP NIGHT

On Friday, April 9, Cedarville University took over the Cedarville Opera House as the SGA band led a concert of powerful worship. The evening was a multimedia experience, featuring corporate worship, a light show covering the width of the stage, and, interestingly, live art painted on the projection screen. *Go to ReadCedars.com for more information about SGA worship night.*



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SGA WORKS TOWARD MORE STUDENT INPUT

by Kate Cella

Cedarville University's Administrative Council has approved the creation of a system that will allow students to formally submit concerns to administrators and trustees for further review.

Carl Ruby, vice president for Student Life, has been working closely with SGA to create a mechanism for SGA to more accurately represent student interests and concerns to the board members entrusted with making decisions that affect students.

"One of our concerns when this year's SGA took office was the lack of interaction between students and trustees," SGA President Peter Brandt said. "Our goal was to facilitate more communication and create a way for student interests to be presented to the people who make Cedarville's policy decisions."

The system that SGA and Ruby jointly proposed is a multistep process of researching student opinion on a specific concern, preparing a written report of student sentiment and potential solutions to the issue, and presenting the request to the Administrative Council.

The process will start when SGA hears about a significant concern or interest from the student body. Upon consulting with the vice president for Student Life, SGA's Executive Council will vote on whether to proceed with the request. If the Executive Council reaches a majority consensus, SGA will launch feedback programs, such as computer surveys, to determine student opinion on the issue.

"We would only go through with it if it was very clear that an overwhelming majority of students felt a certain way about the issue," Brandt said. "We'd conduct empirical research to be sure that our request accurately reflected student opinion, beyond a shadow of doubt."

If research demonstrates that an overriding majority of Cedarville's students feel a certain way about the given issue, a unanimous vote by the SGA Executive Council would move the proposal forward to the vice president for Student Life.

The culmination of this process is SGA's formal presentation to the university's Adminis-

trative Council. Upon hearing and reviewing the proposal, the Administrative Council is required to respond in writing to the SGA Executive Council and to the Student Life Committee of the Board of Trustees.

"This process won't guarantee a policy change," Ruby said. "There is a possibility that the proposal could be shot down. But this process would demonstrate that a large percentage of students feel a certain way, which may influence administrators and trustees to give student opinion more consideration."

SGA is limited to two formal requests for policy review each school year, which adds considerable weight to its use.

"We wanted to make sure it wasn't used a lot, to make it a big deal when it was used, so that administrators knew that students felt really strongly about a given issue," Brandt said.

While it may take some time before enough student opinion influences SGA to draft a proposal, Ruby and Brandt suspect that rules about curfew and dancing will be the first to make it to administrative review.

"The time may not be right for those things to change just yet," Brandt said. "But both SGA and the trustees are encouraged by the possibility of interacting more directly on student life issues."

BAREFOOT RUNNER ENDURES PAIN FOR 'THE CHILDREN'

IJM 10K raises over \$20,000
to fight sex trafficking

by Emily Severance

Torrie Pepper wanted to make a difference no matter how much pain she would have to endure. On March 27, the International Justice Mission's (IJM) Possible Impossibilities 10k gave her the chance.

The 10k's purpose was to raise awareness about sex trafficking and to raise money for Gracehaven, a safe house designed to provide shelter and rehabilitation for girls under the age of 18 who have been victims of commercial sexual exploitation. IJM president Jen Mukes said the race raised over \$20,000.

Almost 700 people, including some who had never run a 10k before, participated with a purpose in mind. Some, like Pepper, used the race as an opportunity to remind themselves and others of a cause that is close to their heart.

"I chose to run barefoot," Pepper said. "People have told me several times that what I did was really stupid. I have no regrets."

That's right — 6.2 miles without shoes.

"I was not ready for the full extent of what I got myself into and I'm glad, because if I would've known it was going to cause so much pain, I probably would've backed out," Pepper said. "I had no idea I was leaving a bloody trail behind me until people told me they were following it to the finish line."

Why did she do it? Pepper was asked that question by many people in the days following the race. In response, she posted a note on her Facebook page to explain her reasons to those who didn't understand why she ran barefoot.



Over 700 runners participated in the Possible Impossibilities 10K in Cedarville on March 27.

Photo by Gerhard Mullican

"I ran for the children forced into sex trafficking and prostitution that Gracehaven will have a part in sharing the love of Christ with this coming fall," Pepper wrote. "I ran for the kids that TOMS shoes supplies who don't have shoes and get infections in their feet because the lack of protection."

Pepper had been in the process of training for a 25k she will be running this May, but many who participated in the 10k had never done anything like this before. Junior Alyssa Walters was one of them.

"I honestly thought I would never do anything

like this or that I even could," Walters said. "It was amazing to see that I ran four of the six miles when up until last week I never even thought I could run two miles."

"God came through and showed me His strength even in things that I think are silly to him — like my physical endurance," Walters continued. "I also just was amazed at the passion that God has put in so many of hearts for these hard social issues in the world."

IJM members Caitlin Hull and Stephanie Taylor were blown away by the turnout of almost 700 runners. Taylor said that amount was

For Emily Severance's personal account of running in the 10K, go online to ReadCedars.com

more than triple what most first-time races are able to accomplish. She said the money raised is more than enough to put in a full sprinkler system at Gracehaven.

“Honestly, I did not expect more than 200 people to sign up for the 10k,” Hull said “I was so excited and surprised when we reached 300 and eventually almost 700.”

IJM wanted the 10k to be more than a one-stop awareness event. They wanted it to be the beginning of an on-going conversation about sex trafficking.

“The goal was to educate people, have them tell what they knew, and then run for these young girls who are trafficked, raped, and beaten daily,” Mukes said. “The money that was raised for Gracehaven is going directly to help these young girls have a safe place, get an education, mentor, and counseling, and most importantly, let them learn about the hope that they have in Christ.”

Hull said the 10k is just one step. She said the IJM wants people to learn more about sex trafficking, inform others and search for ways to be involved that will help end this problem where we live and abroad.

“I had no idea I was leaving a bloody trail behind me until people told me they were following it to the finish line.”

Torrie Pepper

“The 10k was an opportunity for people to be involved in something greater than themselves and to do something beyond giving money,” Hull said. “Don’t let social justice become a Christian fad.”

Pepper’s choice to run barefoot and Walters’ choice to push herself past what she thought she was capable of forced them out of their comfort zones and made the Possible Impossibilities 10k an incredible learning experience for them.

“You have to get out of your box – force yourself out of what’s comfortable,” Pepper said. “When you deliberately put yourself through pain and deny yourself needs and wants you have been accustomed to, you

know how blessed you really are.”

Walters said the mission of her run was to show others that God overcomes and that his power and strength gives us strength to overcome whatever we think is impossible.

““It was so encouraging to run the 10k,” she said “It was hard, no doubt, but I was so blessed by it.”



Photo by Gerhard Mullican

PLAY REVIEW: 'YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU'

by Lucas Zellers

"You Can't Take It with You" took its Cedarville audience back to 1936 to tell a light-hearted story of love and confusion during the Great Depression.

In the play, female protagonist Alice Sycamore has fallen deeply in love with Tony Kirby, vice president of the company where she works, and becomes concerned about the impression her eccentric family will make on the conservative Kirbys. Rightfully so – the Vanderhoffs are a strange assortment of individuals.

6 Her mother Penny has been writing sordid plays for eight years because a typewriter was delivered to her by mistake, her father makes fireworks in the basement with Mr. De Pina, and a stranger who once delivered ice to the house "just stayed."

Alice's sister Essie does nothing but dance badly, and her grandpa walked out of a successful Wall Street business 35 years ago and never went back. She finally works up



Photo by Jonathan Moultroup

the courage to ask the Kirbys to dinner, provided she scrupulously oversees every detail of the evening, but when the Kirbys arrive on the wrong night, their two worlds collide with literally explosive results.

The play was small in scale, occurring mostly within a single room. The house at 761 Clairemont, as the set designers conceived it, was therefore not large or complicated, but in this case the devil was in the details.

The interior of the Vanderhoff's home was heavily decorated with a collection of items that were as odd and incongruous as the char-

acters themselves. Great care was shown in the selection of these details: an Egyptian mask hung on the wall above a Chinese pipa, and a stained-glass window overlooked a mural of a dull street.

The pair of American flags hung above Ed's printing press was period accurate, having 48 stars each; the bookshelves behind Mrs. Sycamore's typewriter contained the works of Shakespeare, and, with apologies to the more squeamish members of the audience, the terrarium contained a brace of live snakes.

It is safe to say that everyone's favorite character in the play was the dour and explosively vehement Mr. Kolenkhov, played with appropriate volume and gusto by Josiah Smith. Special mention should be made of Matt Scheerschmidt, who proved his devotion to the theater by shaving the crown of his head for the role of the balding Mr. De Pina and maintaining the cut through weeks of classes between the dress rehearsal and the final performance. Carolyn Ruck and Josiah Hutchings alternated easily between the love and outrage of Alice and Tony.

But the star of the play could be Grandpa, played by Jordan Link, whose unique philosophy on life could resonate with a young audience. He waxed philosophical in the third act, asking, "How many of us would be willing to settle when we're young for what we eventually get?"

"You Can't Take it With You" was a delightfully awkward, often insightful and always funny story about a family with whom all people can relate.

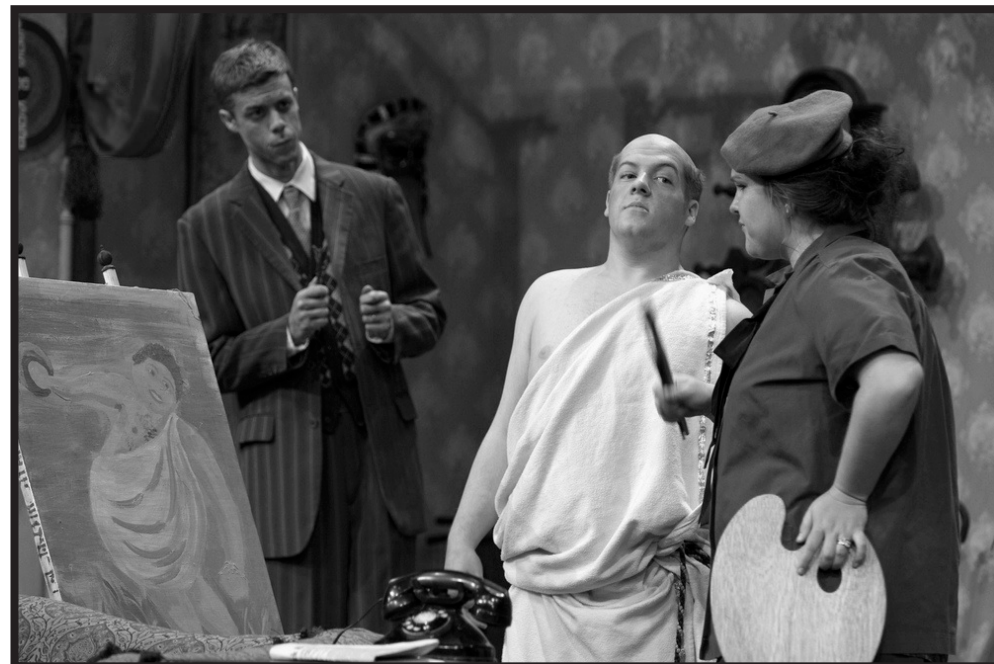


Photo by Jonathan Moultroup

BOOK REVIEW: EMOTIONAL PURITY - AN AFFAIR OF THE HEART

by Lindsay Cornish

This is a book inspired by a woman's desire to show fellow believers how to define boundaries in relationships, how to avoid making the same mistakes as she did, and how to guard their hearts by keeping them emotionally pure.

Although women tend to struggle with emotional purity more than men, author Heather Arnel Paulsen included a "For Guys Only" section at the end of chapters 4, 5, 12 and 14. It is her hope that, by doing so, young men will also be encouraged to examine emotional

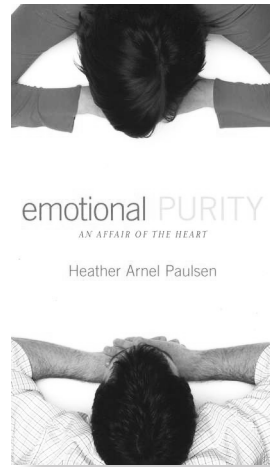
purity in their lives.

Paulsen's book begins with a story many of us know too well. Truth is we could probably tell one just like it. Tracy moves to a new town and meets Mike at a Bible study. They play tennis and have lunch that Saturday and their friendship builds. He invites her to his house for Thanksgiving and one day shows up with his new girlfriend, leaving Tracy completely devastated.

Paulsen uses Mike and Tracy as the primary examples in her book with every chapter following the first dedicated to helping us not fall into the same traps.

Each of the next 14 chapters focuses on a unique way of avoiding emotional intimacy with the opposite sex. Some of the titles include avoiding early intimacy, guarding your heart, defining a friendship and understanding your expectations and preparing for marriage. Each chapter stems from Paulsen's personal experiences, the story of Tracy and Mike, and the truths found in Scripture.

This excerpt from Paulsen's book has the potential to speak volumes to many of Ce-



darville's students: "An underlying, unspoken feeling in Christian circles seems to be that marriage brings you to a deeper level of spirituality. It is almost as though marriage is the pinnacle of the Christian life.

In "Common Mistakes Singles Make," Mary Whelchel backs up this train of thought: "There is a very common tendency to think that life hasn't really begun for us yet. We're just marking time, flying around in a holding pattern, waiting for this prerequisite

— marriage — before life can truly start. Even though many singles protest that they aren't doing this, they are."

Paulsen's honesty is what makes this book worth reading. The relevance and beauty of the message within its pages make this book a must-read for any college student.



3 COLLEGES COULD BE RESULT OF CHANGES TO CEDARVILLE'S ACADEMIC STRUCTURE

by Kate Cella and
Jonathan Bundy

Cedarville is in the process of reorganizing its academic departments to reflect the vision articulated by University President Bill Brown.

His vision has three goals for the next decade: to make Cedarville the top choice for young Christians seeking professional education, to emphasize the health sciences and to strengthen the core arts and sciences. The impending academic reorganization will be built around this vision.

Vice President of Academics Tom Cornman assembled a task force to create a new academic structure. They are currently debating an academic structure that would divide Cedarville University into three "colleges": the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Professional Studies and the College of Health Professions.

The reason for the academic organization was Brown's vision statement for Cedarville's

next decade at the university's trustees during their convention early this semester. His statement, combined with flaws in the current organization, prompted the administration to begin planning a new organizational structure.

Stan Baczek, Dean of the School of Natural and Applied Sciences, was appointed chair of the task force. His role has been to gather the ideas and concerns of the primary stakeholders and guide the decision-making process. The task force is comprised of four trustees, two deans, two department chairs, four faculty members and two non-faculty administration members to find a feasible strategy.

The structural reorganization will be functional, not geographical, meaning that colleges and departments will not all be contained in one building or cluster of buildings.

The idea for structuring Cedarville in this fashion was conceived by looking at other Council for Christian Colleges and Universities schools and examining how they're organized.

Baczek said he desires the process to be open and transparent, allowing faculty to have an advisory role in the decision-making process. During the last reorganization, the faculty was not involved and, afterwards, many faculty members questioned the efficiency of the reorganization.

In drafting a final proposal for 2010, the reorganization task force will face several challenges. One challenge is the need to hire deans to fill the new open positions without increasing the budget. Consolidating several departments into one school is also challenging, especially in regard to allocating resources.

"The fundamental concept is shared governance—how faculty and departments share resources and facilitate access to the academic vice president," Baczek said. "It's a complicated undertaking."

The final board decision for academic reorganization will be made by January 2011.

RUBY TAKES RISKS IN WILD AND CEDARVILLE

by Bekah Cvetich

Armed with only a can of bear spray, Carl Ruby took another step in what he hoped was the right direction. He and his hiking group of President Bill Brown, Pastor Robert Rohm and Bill Bigham had lost the trail a while back and were conserving flashlight battery power. They pressed on into the woods in complete darkness.

The four went hiking on their last night of Cedarville University's administrative retreat at a ranch in Montana. The owner of the ranch told Ruby that he knew of a trail where he would be most likely to see a bear or mountain lion. Ruby knew that was exactly where he wanted to go.

As the four continued, Ruby's feet got caught in something. He pulled this way and that but couldn't break loose. Finally, Rohm shone his flashlight on the forest floor only to find Ruby standing in the ribcage of an elk carcass.

When recounting the story, Ruby said all he could think was, "OK, I'm in an area where there's something that can kill and eat an elk ... and I smell like dinner now."

Fortunately, none of the four became a meal for the wildlife and all arrived safely back at the ranch within a few hours. Ruby said that the experience was worth it, though it was dangerous.

"I like risk — I get an adrenaline rush from taking a risk," Ruby said. "It also plays into my leadership style at Cedarville. At times it's helpful and at times it gets me into trouble."

As Cedarville's Vice President for Student Life, Ruby said he gets sufficient opportunities to take risks, though some turn out better than others.

One risk that was successful involved a current student. Emily Shanahan, a junior at Cedarville with physical disabilities, was greatly benefited by a risky decision Ruby took for her.

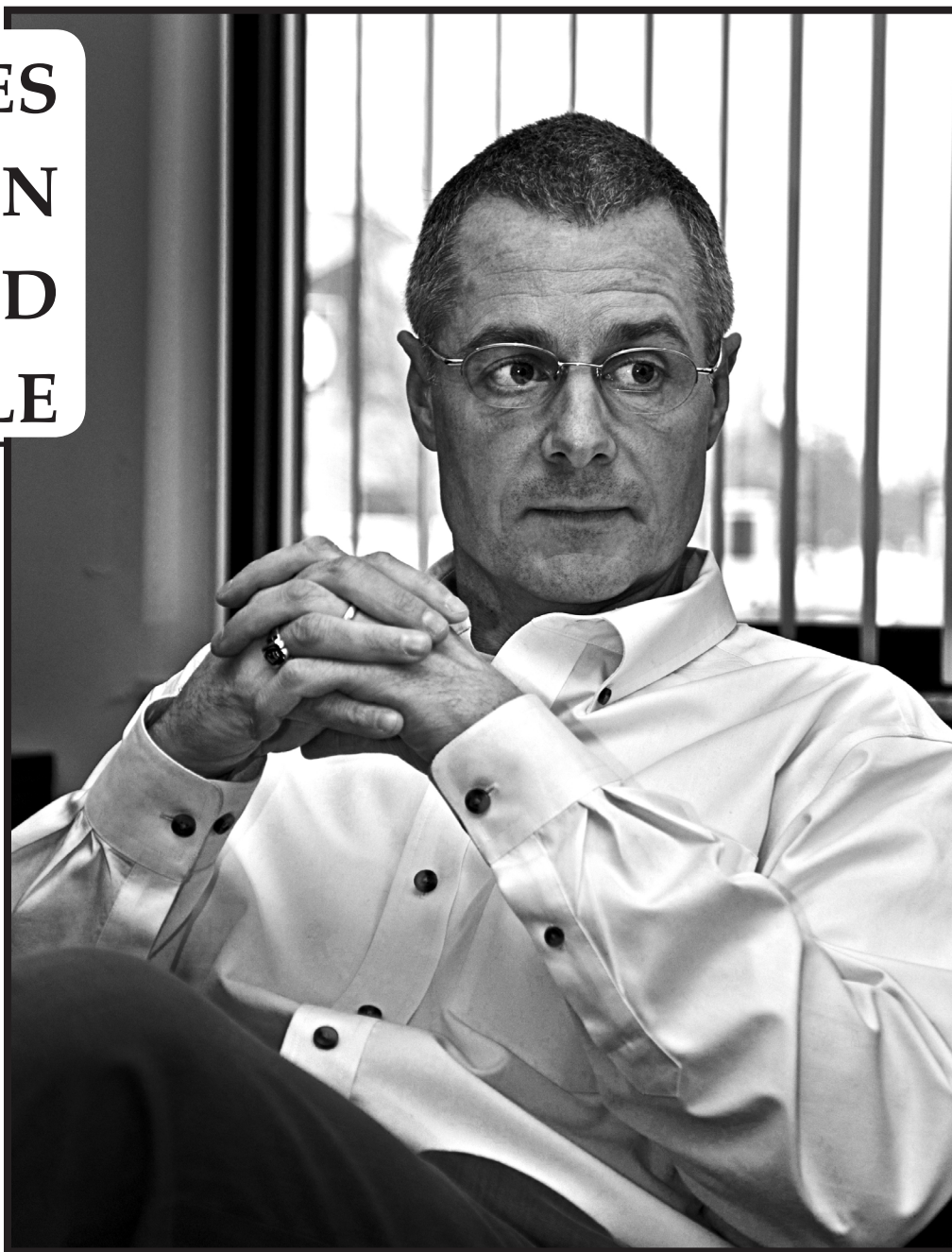


Photo by Andrew Bash

When Shanahan was in eighth grade, she and her family came to talk to Ruby about living arrangements for her attending Cedarville. Seven years later, Shanahan sits in her own room, complete with everything she needs to function as a college student. Her dorm in Willetts Hall has a remote-operated door, an easily-accessible restroom and enough open space to maneuver in her powered wheelchair.

"He played such an influential role from a practical administrative perspective as to how this became reality," Shanahan said, looking around at her dorm.

Shanahan said that Cedarville's research found that no other university had attempted to create a space for others like her. She respects Ruby immensely, she said, because he took a chance on something that hadn't been tried before and may not have been successful.

"He took a risk by merely entertaining the idea of creating a room for physically disabled females on campus," Shanahan said.

Though Ruby's risk-taking has been successful in most cases, some risks don't go as planned.

Last year, Ruby invited Shane Claiborne, the author of "The Irresistible Revolution" to speak at an evening seminar on campus. Ruby's assistant vice president, Kirsten Gibbs, said Claiborne is known for working with people who that are "less evangelical" in order to meet the needs of people.

"That totally blew up," Ruby said, shaking his head.

Gibbs said she and Ruby were caught off guard when several people strongly opposed Claiborne's coming.

"In a very evangelically conservative environment like Cedarville, some people were uncertain about some of the associations that Shane Claiborne would have," she said.

Gibbs explained that Ruby invited Claiborne out of his passion for taking risks to help students think more critically about their faith. He hoped Claiborne's seminar would open the door for serious consideration and questions. Instead, Gibbs said, it reflected poorly on Ruby.

"That was a defining experience for me in a negative way ... with my leadership here," Ruby said.

Gibbs said that Ruby takes such risks often. He is willing to sacrifice his reputation to step out and make a positive change for the students' sake, Gibbs said.

"Students don't understand how many times he takes risks on their behalf which have the potential to be detrimental to him professionally," Gibbs said. "He doesn't take risks for risk's sake — he loves students."

Gibbs said that Ruby cares enough about his students to want them to take their faith seriously and truly know what they believe in. If he has to be the "lightning rod" for criticism because of it, it will not change his actions.

"I want the Cedarville environment to be an environment that really challenges students to think deeply about important issues," Ruby said. "I think you don't do that if you avoid all controversy ... It's hard to create a real thought-provoking environment if you're not willing to be stirred up a little bit."

**"He doesn't
take risks for
risk's sake
- he loves
students."**

Kirsten Gibbs
Assistant vice president
for Student Life

BLEACHERS, VIP SEATS, NEW PAINT JOB COMING TO GYM



Photo by Andrew Bash

by Kyler Ludlow

You may have heard a lot of noise coming from the Callan Athletic Center recently. It's not the typical 3,000 fans screaming for a basketball game, or the cheering that often arises during intramurals. It's the screeching of a drill or the sound of a vacuum.

The fumes you might smell as you walk to class in Callan come from fresh paint, and if you liked the old color combination you're out of luck. It will be replaced with a navy blue and gold stripe that goes all the way around the gymnasium. On March 18, workers tore out the old wooden bleachers and pulled out the paintbrushes to begin a renovation that associate athletic director Chris Reese said was long overdue.

When the Callan Athletic Center was completed in 1981, it was fitted with the bleachers that were still in use in 2010. As expected, maintaining safety codes was growing difficult.

"It was getting to the point where we were doing a lot to keep them in code," Reese said. "It (was) a safety issue. Doing some research and hearing other issues that some other universities had with old bleachers and accidents, (we knew) it was time to get those bleachers changed out."

When the athletic administration wanted some feedback on the project, they went to Kiel Boynton, supervisor of athletic facilities. Part of Boynton's role is to set up and tear down for athletic events. He said that the athletic department has ordered the new bleachers, and that they plan to install 96 VIP seat-back chairs on the team side of the court.

"The bleachers were tough to decide on," Boynton said. "Everything we looked into had some sort of hand rail, which we thought was necessary, but with intramurals being in the gym too, we knew that there would be a potential problem with those."

Before the bleachers are shipped to Cedarville, a new floor has to be put in, and a fresh coat of paint applied to the walls. That's where the next part of the process starts. Reese and Boynton got together with coaches Pat Estep (men's basketball), Kirk Martin (women's basketball) and Doug Walters (volleyball) and looked into updating the scoreboards. They traveled across Ohio to look at what other schools have, and combined that information with the coaches' preferences.

The project will be finished in late May. The longest part of the process will be refinishing the floor. The new logo, which was unveiled last year, won't be included.

"It's very expensive to replace the floor," Boynton said, "and with [the move to] NCAA DII we have to keep in mind that if it works out, then we are required to have that logo on the court. To replace and paint it now and then do it again to add the NCAA logo in a couple of years would be extremely expensive."

LIVE FROM DAMASCUS: A TRIP TO JERASH

by Elizabeth Graff

Elizabeth Graff is a sophomore international studies major at Cedarville University. Follow her weekly documentation of her semester abroad in Jordan at ReadCedars.com.

6:00 AM. I woke up early to prepare for an adventure in Jerash. Jerash is an ancient Greek city that is about an hour away from Amman. It is one of the most beautiful and well-preserved cities of its kind. I had great expectations of exploring ruins and running through meadows. With these ideas in mind, I texted my friend Andrea. She, being more sensible than I about our sleep needs, kindly suggested that we should meet up at Mujjama Esh Shamal (North Bus Station), at 9:00, not 8:00. I agreed reluctantly. Now I'm glad that this happened.

Not having adjusted to the Arab idea of being fashionably late, I arrived at 8:45. I went around hunting for a bus to Jerash. "Ila Jerash?" I asked the first bus driver I saw. He, with an amused look on his face, said in English "Yes, to Jerash." "Shukran!" I chirped. And with that, I bounced onto the bus.

As I was waiting for the bus to fill up, I saw a very non-Arab looking person. She was blond, pale, and tall. She, also noticing my differentness, said in a charming British accent, "Hello, are you traveling by yourself?"

"No, I'm waiting on a friend. You?"

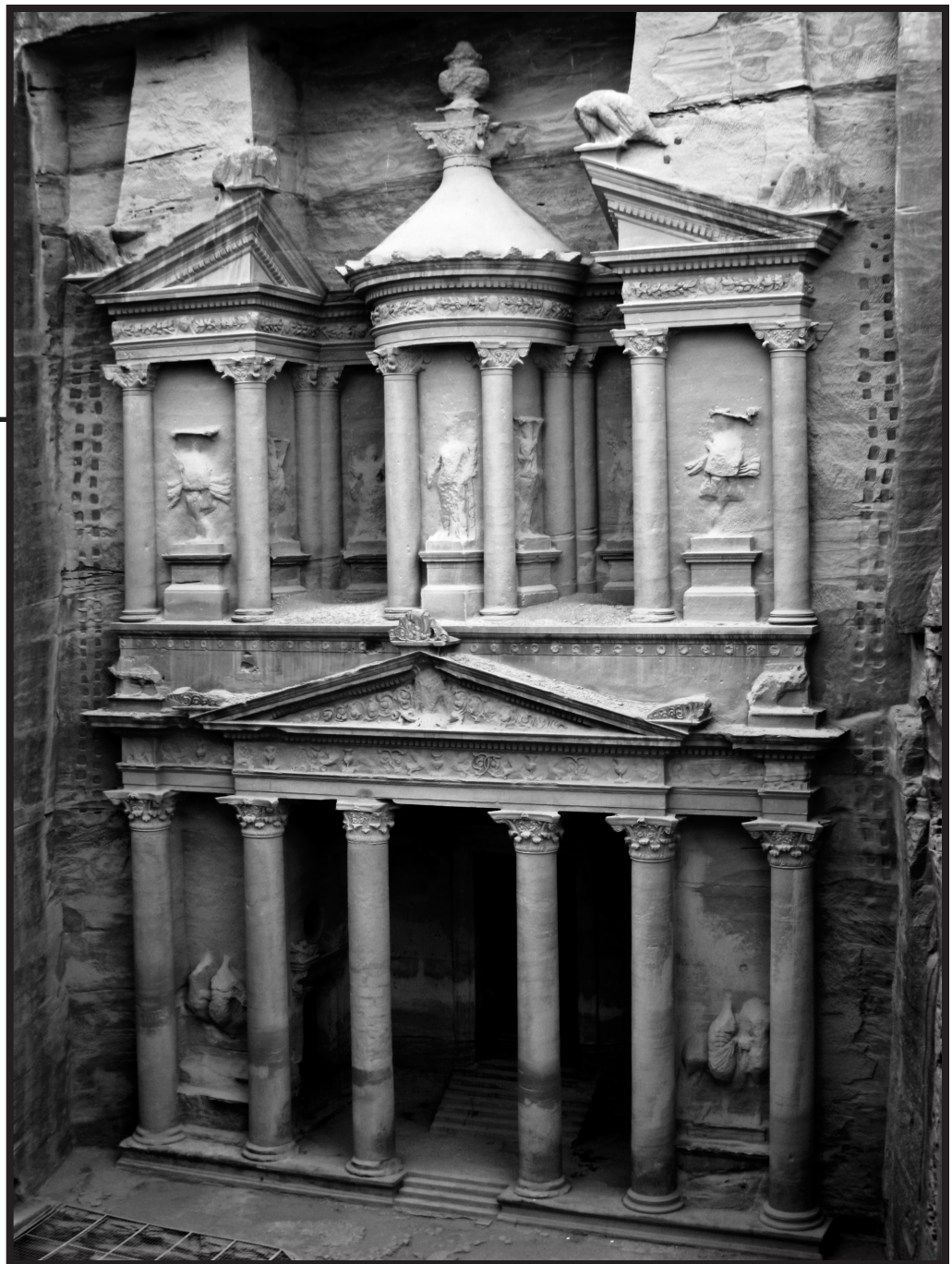
"Yes, I and a friend are on a break between Arabic classes, so we decided to come to Jordan for a week. He has seen enough ruins, so I'm here by myself."

"Where do ya'll study?"

"In Damascus."

"That must be great. I went to Damascus for a weekend, and the Old City has much more character than Amman. Where do you study in Britain?"

"I just finished my Master's in Islamic Law, and before that I was at Oxford studying



The Treasury at Petra: one of the many sites Graff was able to visit during her semester in Jordan.

Photo credit: Khasnè 8

Christian and Islamic History."

"Why are you in Damascus then?"

"I'm there on my own because I want to learn Arabic so I can work in this region."

"Doing what?"

"Working against violence towards women and helping with refugee resettlement. What about you? Give me the answers to everything you just asked me."

"Well, I'm in Amman studying Arabic, politics, and Islam. I am with a big group of students through a study abroad program. They are mostly American, but there's a lot of diversity in the group. I am an undergraduate at a small Christian school in Ohio. My major is inter-

national studies, social science. I also want to work in the Middle East, probably with a non-government organization that focuses on refugees, sustainable economic development, and conflict resolution."

"Good. So you said you were waiting on a friend. Where is she?"

She said this as the bus rolled away. I quickly texted Andrea and told her to catch the next one. Buses here are wonderful. They are everywhere, and all you have to do is ask where they are going, wait till they fill, and you're off. Andrea knew this, so she was fine with coming a bit later.

After this was taken care of, I finally got around to asking my traveling companion her name.

“Samantha. It’s funny, when you’re traveling, you don’t ask for people’s names until you know them a bit. What’s yours?”

“Elizabeth. You seem like you’ve traveled a lot. Where all have you been?”

“It would take too long to list all the countries. Maybe 45, 50? I’ve been to five continents though. What about you?”

“I can’t compare with that. I’ve only been to Mexico, Canada, Austria, Jordan, and Syria.”

“You don’t have to compare yourself with me. I’m older and I was born in a part of the world where it’s easier to travel. You’ll travel too, look where you are now.”

“Thanks. Why have you traveled so much? What were you doing when you traveled? What do you like about it?”

“I’ve traveled for a lot of reasons. In Europe it was mainly just for the fun of it. My friends and I would hop on a plane when it suited us and go to different countries. In South America and Asia, I did service projects in between secondary school and university and then again between university and graduate school. In Africa and America and other places I was visiting friends. I love the differences in societies. I love the people I meet. I love learning how to help others. And I realize more

and more that there are differences in how people think and do things, and that there is nothing wrong with that.”

Over the next hour, we admired the view, talked about Islam, different cultures, Sam’s adventures, religion, and relationships. Skye is different from me in a lot of ways. She has a lot of good characteristics and ideas, and some bad. I recognize that I don’t want to turn into her, but if I could be where she is by the time I am 25, I would feel accomplished.

We arrived at Jerash, where we met up with Andrea after text tag. We walked through the ruins, which are made up of arches, columns, streets, plazas, and amphitheaters. You think of all the people, whether they were Greeks, Romans, or Crusaders, who once lived in this ruined city. You wonder what it was like before, and then you wonder if your civilization will be in ruins one day, a tourist site for curious explorers.

While we walked through the city, Sam, Andrea, and I had many conversations. The most interesting ones were about the place of Islam in government and God.

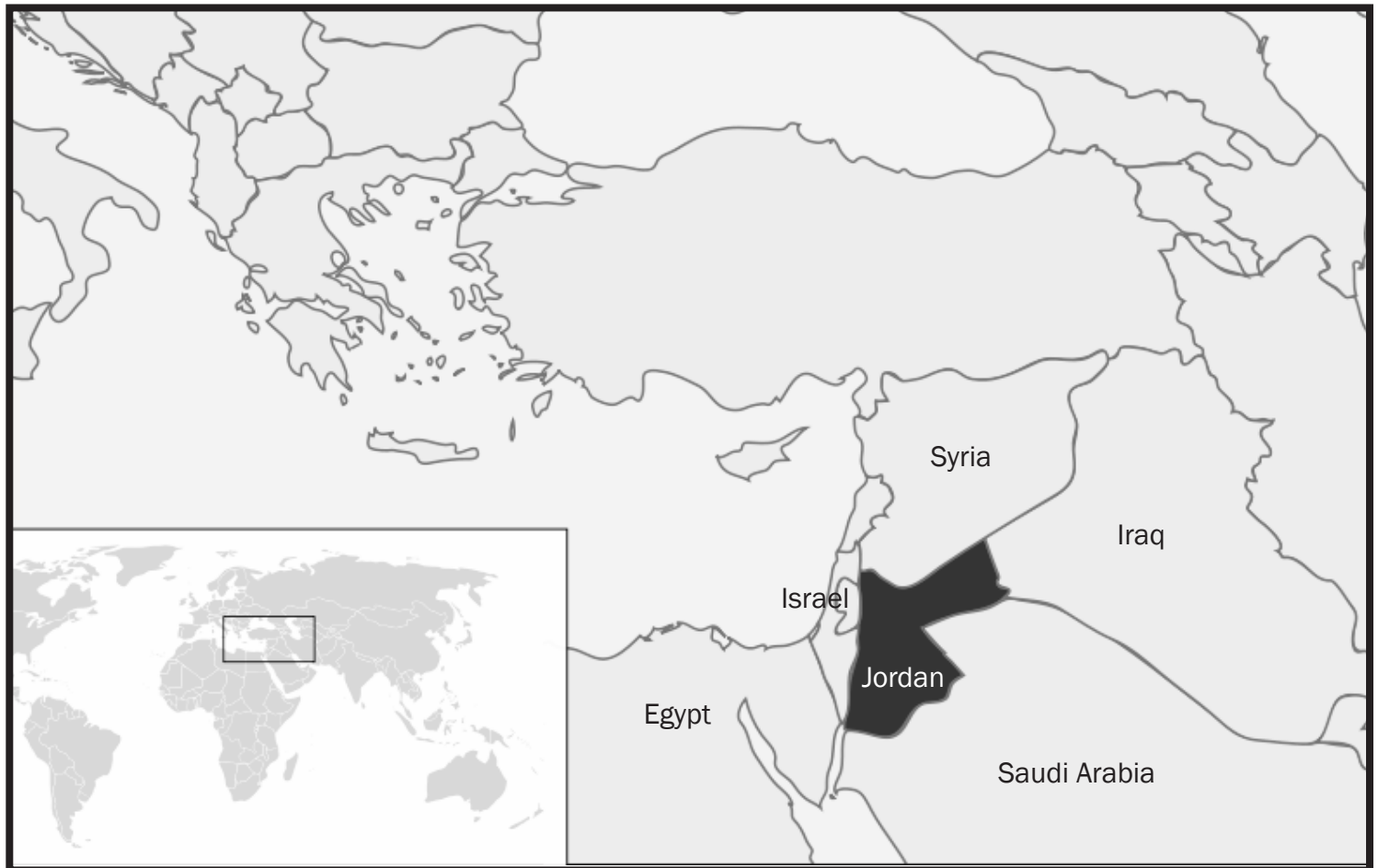
Sam, even with her background in Islamic studies, does not favor mixing faith and government. She is a staunch secularist and believes that religion is an individual deci-

sion, and should not be imposed on anyone. Though true Islam does not advocate forcing faith on anyone, the people who use it as a political tool do. And even if these people don’t force others to convert to Islam, they do impose Islamic values, such as dress restrictions, forbidding alcohol, and enforcing gender segregation. This is what Sam is against, not religion itself.

As far as belief in God, the issues that concern Sam are people’s placement in the world and the presence of suffering. When we asked her to clarify, she told us this:

“I have read about and seen pain being inflicted upon others. And I ask myself, why was I born into privilege while others were born into situations they can’t escape? Why would a just God allow that? Why should there be suffering in the world? Why is it like this? Until these problems go away, I can’t believe in a God.”

The rest of the day passed quickly, with conversations about the bigotry on the British Nationalist Party and the plights and merits of immigrants. After finishing our stroll, we caught a bus back to Amman. We went our separate ways at the North Station, but not before exchanging numbers and promising to call each other when we are in the same city. I hope this is the case over Spring break.





2009



2002

THE EVOLUTION OF ELLIV

by Rachel Baylor

Superman, a walking game of Tetris, and the Spice Girls make an appearance once a year on campus. They mingle with princesses, villains, and Broadway stars, strutting down the red carpet to take their places for the evening's entertainment. When Cedarville students take the stage singing "Viva La Vida" like Coldplay, or "You Can't Stop the Beat" with more energy than the cast of Hairspray, the crowd is on its feet.

Elliv is the biggest event of the year. Originally a mock awards show, Elliv now showcases some of Cedarville's best talent. Hundreds of students compete for positions as singers, dancers and musicians, and after months of practice, the show is finally ready to perform.

Elliv was introduced by SGA in 2000 as an awards show for student filmmakers. The small budget and mock Academy Awards style show provided a somewhat simple, but entertaining, evening. It didn't come back in 2001.

However, in 2002 Elliv was back, and bigger than before. The awards focused more on

real Cedarville talent, rather than on student films and mocking bigger shows. The acts were more complex, and the semi-established event took hold.

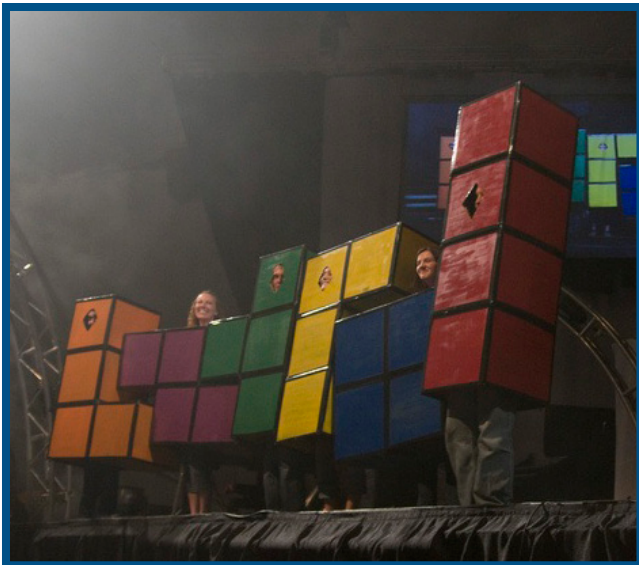
Each year, the SGA tries to make Elliv more impressive than the years before. Some years, Elliv is closer to the original mock awards show. For example, last year's SGA chose to use potted cedar trees as trophies, and awarded them to the best Chuck's scanner, the best barista, and the best campus statue. Other times, the awards are more serious, and simply given in a fun setting. This year, for example, awards will be given to the best male and female performing artists.

This year marks the 10th birthday of Elliv. According to the Elliv Web site, "we're celebrating a decade of Elliv red carpet style." The program will be full of inside jokes, pop culture references and comedy skits. The staging, lighting and special effects are meant to showcase the best production Cedarville has to offer.

This year, SGA guarantees "a night full of fun and amazing performances you won't soon forget."



2002



2009



2002